

Coordinator Jan Stegelman Featured in *Safe Kids Voice*

A *Coordinator Profile* of Safe Kids Kansas' Jan Stegelman was featured in the Winter 2005 edition of the *Safe Kids Voice*, the official publication of Safe Kids Worldwide. The article also featured a picture of Stegelman with KDHE Secretary Roderick L. Bremby, Member of the Year Phyllis Larimore and Chairperson Elena Nuss. Safe Kids Kansas was named Coalition of the Year for 2004 at the national Leadership Conference.

Stegelman was integral in starting the state coalition in 1992. "The Kansas Department of Health and Environment wanted to implement an injury prevention program, so we looked at where the problems were, and childhood injuries were one of the problem areas," said Stegelman. A 10-year progress report published in 2003 showed a 24 percent reduction in fatal childhood injuries in Kansas.

Safe Kids Kansas, Inc., is a nonprofit Coalition of 67 statewide or regional member organizations. Stegelman credits these partnerships as one of the key reasons the state coalition has been so successful. "We can't do it all ourselves. If we can incorporate our efforts into other programs, we can greatly increase our impact," Stegelman said.

Kansas currently has 33 local Coalition and chapter affiliates, which cover 70 percent of the child population age 0-14 in our state.

Public policy advocacy has been the area where the coalition has faced the most challenges. According to Stegelman, "We're making inroads. We have a really good smoke alarm law now."

Upgrading child passenger safety law in Kansas has been a priority during recent legislative sessions. "Along with our partner Kansas Action For Children, we hold a Child Advocacy Day each February. More than 600 advocates come for the workshops and education," Stegelman said.

Stegelman relishes success stories from around the state. "The best moments of all are when someone calls and says, 'I got a bike helmet or a smoke alarm or a car seat at your event, and it saved my child's life,'" says Stegelman. "I didn't think it would ever happen to me, but my son Derek was saved when he was 12 by his helmet while he was inline skating."

Derek is now 18 and graduated from high school in May.



KDHE Secretary Roderick Bremby presents Phyllis Larimore with the Member of the Year award with Elena Nuss, chairperson and Jan Stegelman, Safe Kids Kansas coordinator at the 2004 annual meeting. Safe Kids Kansas was recognized as the top coalition in the nation for 2004.